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THE UNCANNY

X-MEN

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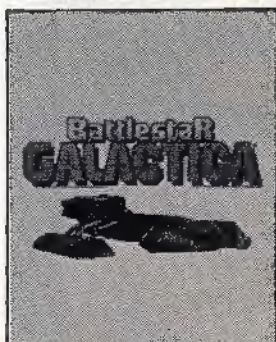
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IN NEW YORK. FOR
SOME, A TIME OF
LOVE. FOR OTHERS,
A TIME OF MISERY.
FOR MOST OF US,
THOUGH, IT'S A
LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.

CASE IN POINT:

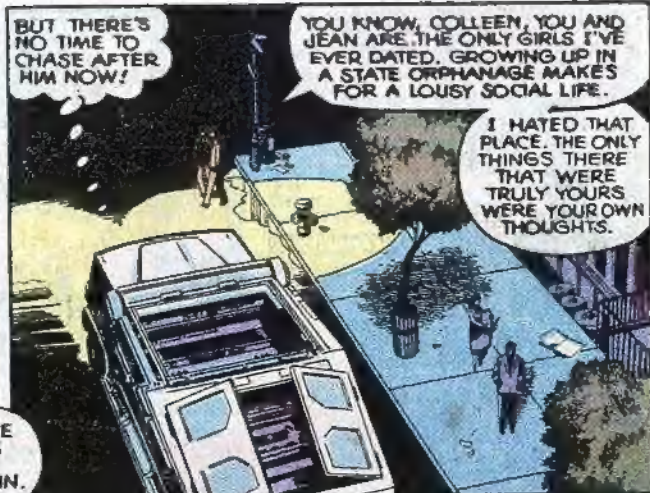
TYPICAL. I'M HEADING
FOR A DATE WITH CISSY
IRONWOOD-- A GORGEOUS
GAL WHO REALLY DIGS ME--
AND I FEEL MISERABLE.

I WANTED
TONIGHT TO BE
SPECIAL-- FIRST-
CLASS ALL
THE WAY.

BUT AFTER PAYING MY INCOME
TAXES YESTERDAY, ABOUT ALL I
CAN AFFORD IS A BIG MAC AND FRIES.

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- _____
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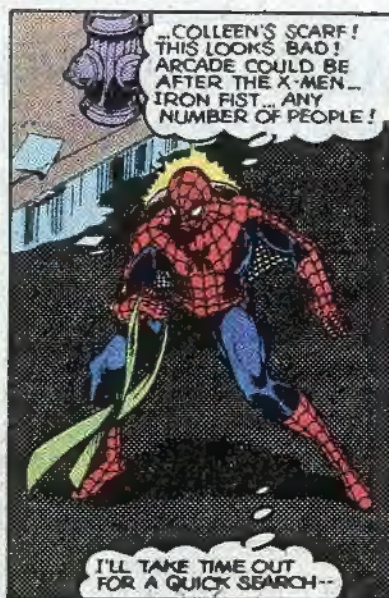
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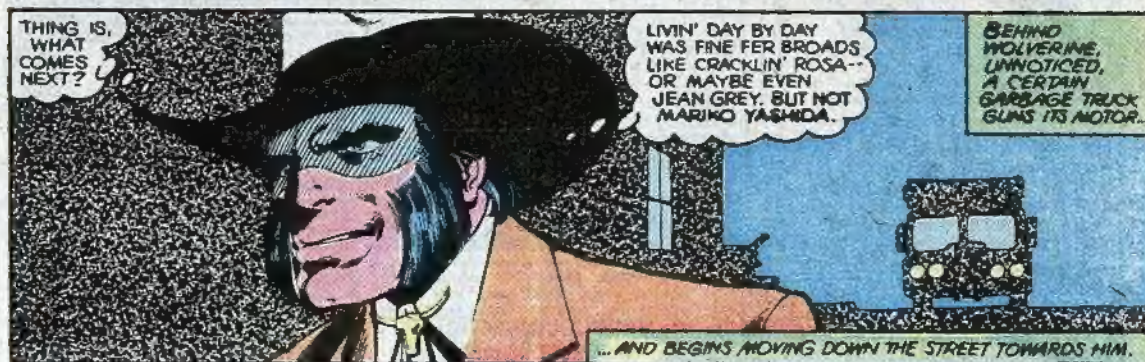
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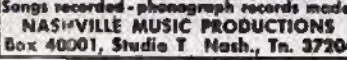
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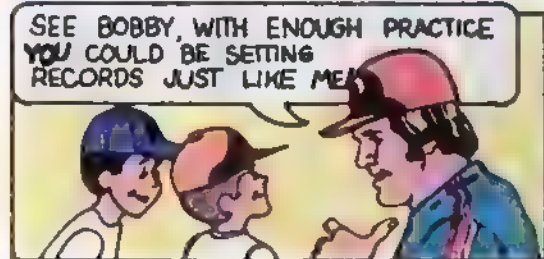
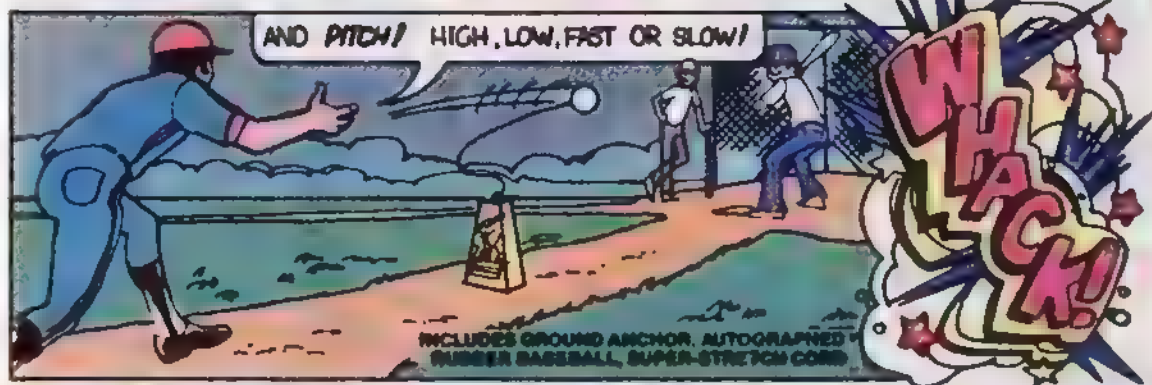
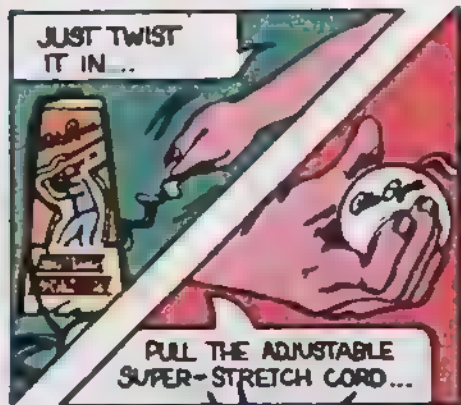
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PRACTICE IS THE
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SUCCESS IN
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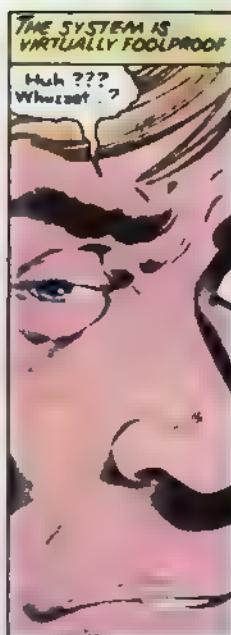
...AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN



AS SUCH, IT IS PROTECTED BY AN ARMY OF SECURITY SYSTEMS SO COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED

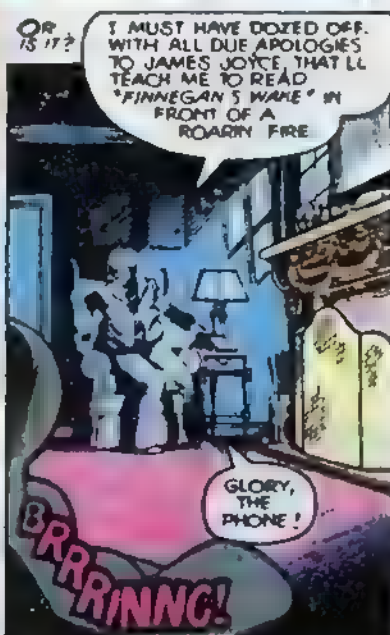


...THAT EVEN THE X-MEN THEMSELVES WOULD BE UNABLE TO BREAK IN UNDETECTED



THE SYSTEM IS VIRTUALLY FOOLPROOF

Huh ???
What's that ?



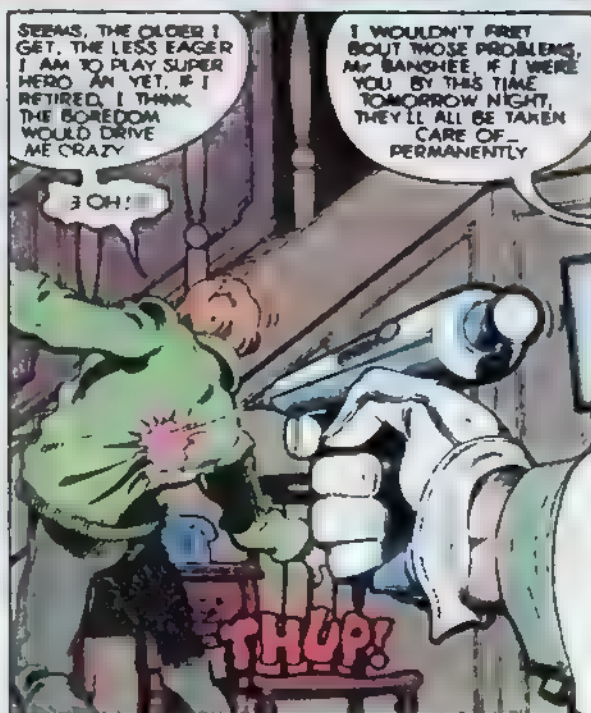
OR IS IT?

I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF. WITH ALL DUE APOLOGIES TO JAMES JOYCE, THAT LL TEACH ME TO READ "FINNEGAN'S WAKE" IN FRONT OF A ROARIN' FIRE

GLORY, THE PHONE!



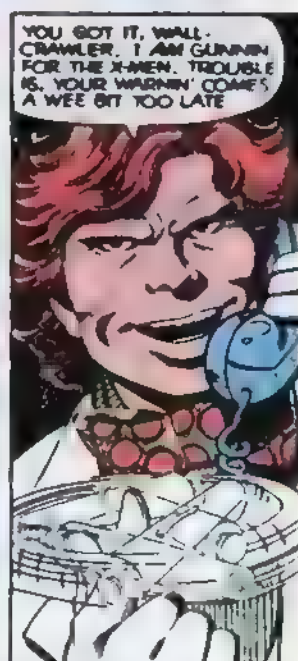
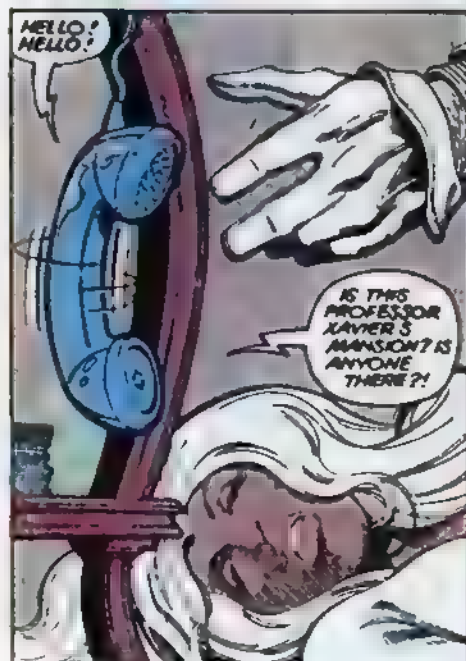
I HOPE IT HNT TROUBLE WE'VE HAD IT PRETTY EASY THESE PAST FEW WEEKS. GETTIN' THE MANSION... AN OUR HEADS IN ORDER. I'LL BE SORRY TO SEE OUR "VACATION" END



SEEMS, THE OLDER I GET, THE LESS EAGER I AM TO PLAY SUPER HERO. AN YET, IF I RETIRED, I THINK THE BOREDOM WOULD DRIVE ME CRAZY

OH!

I WOULDN'T FRET BOUT THOSE PROBLEMS, MY BANSHEE. IF I WERE YOU BY THIS TIME TOMORROW NIGHT, THEY'LL ALL BE TAKEN CARE OF PERMANENTLY

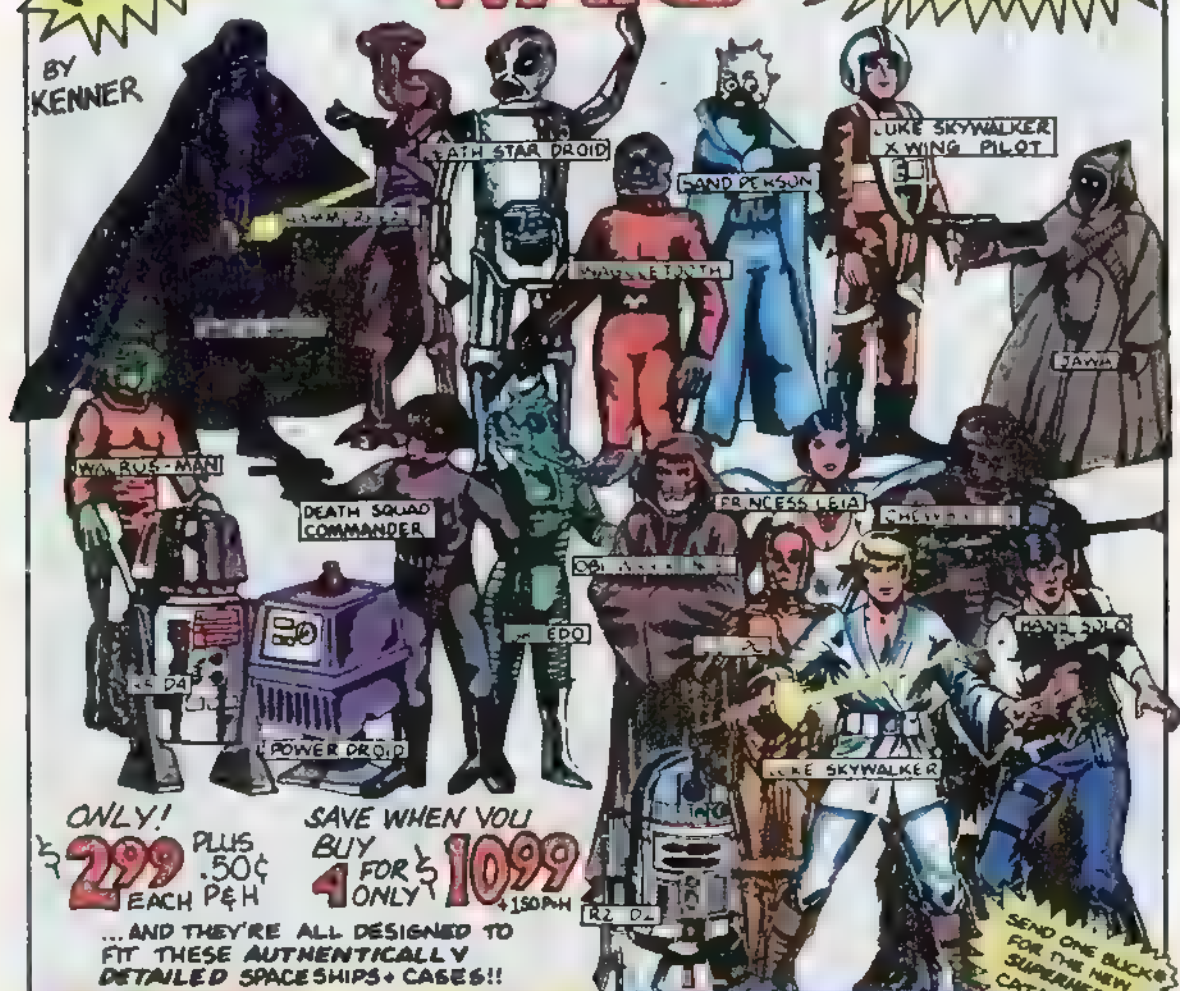


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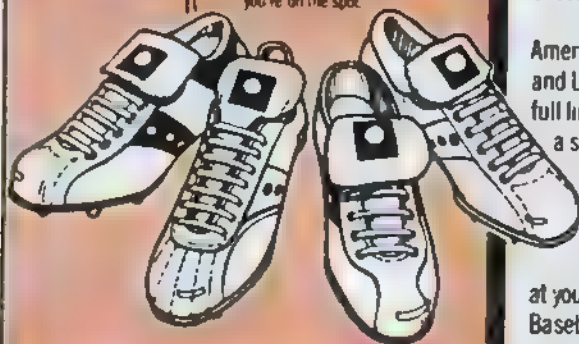
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you're on the spot.

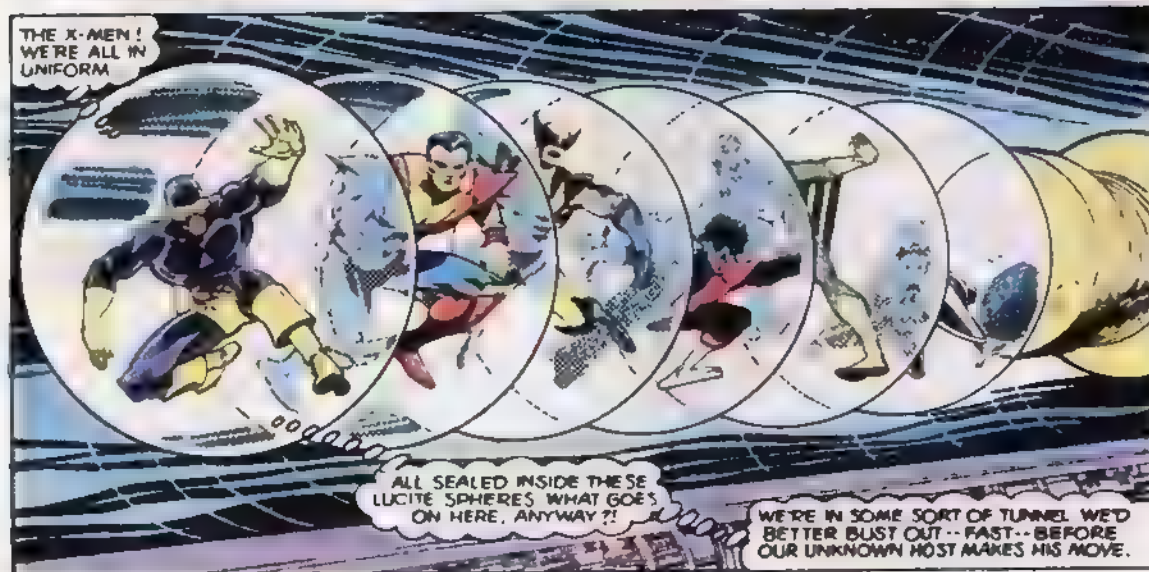
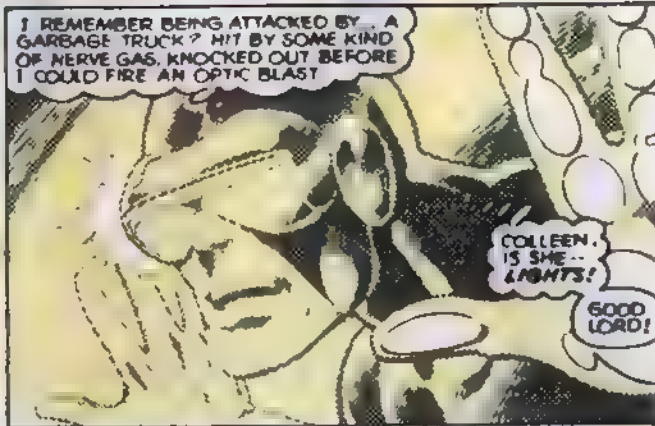
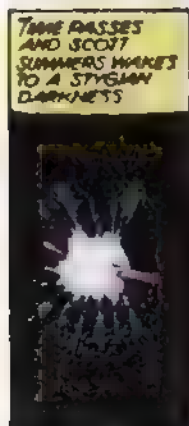
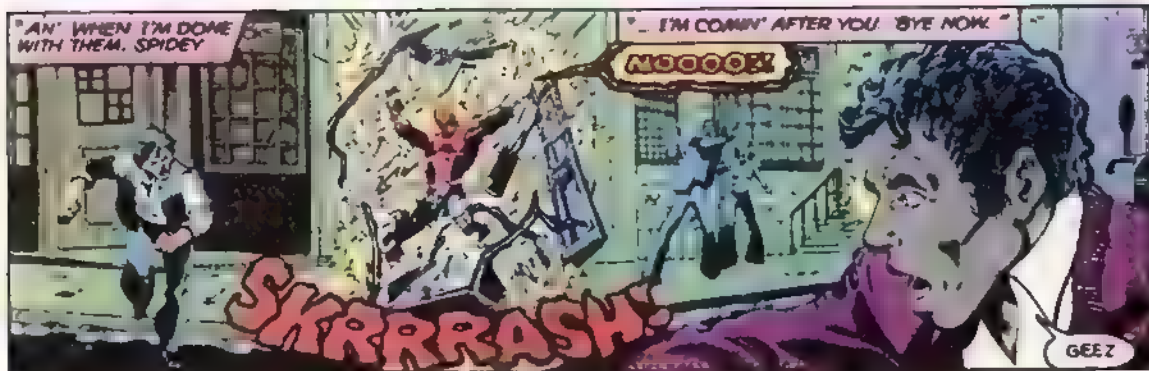


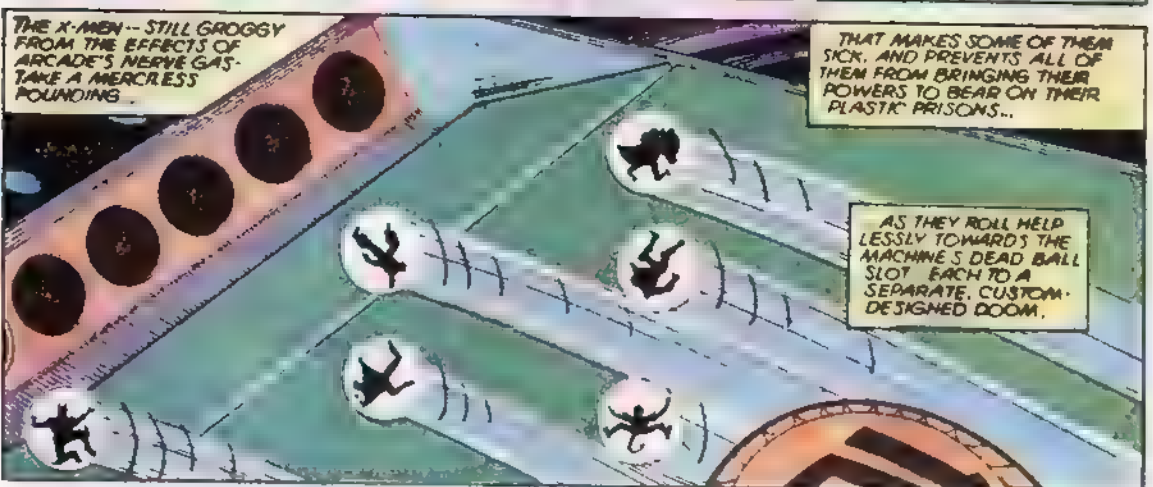
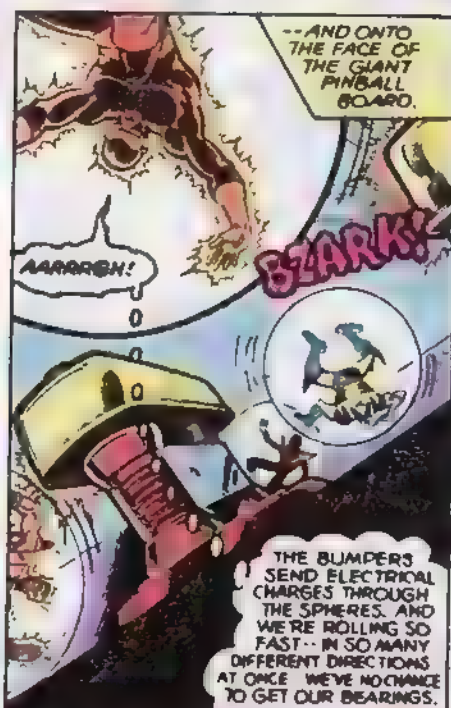
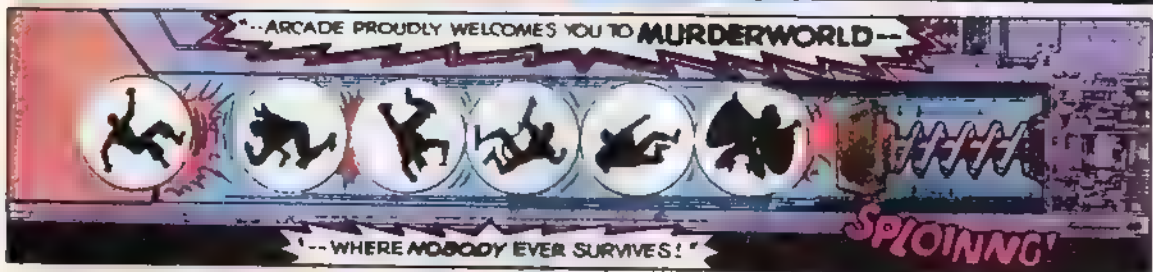
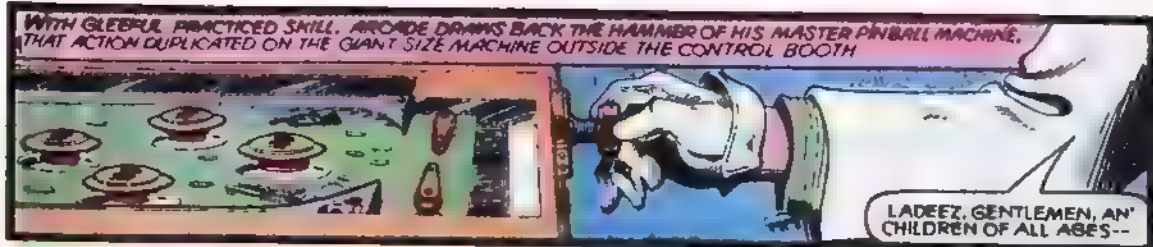
Like O.J., kids too need the extra step when they're on the spot. And that's what they get in Spot-bilt. For football. For soccer. For baseball. For any sport played on natural turf.

And like O.J., a lot of other superstar athletes wear Spot-bilt. They've even helped Spot-bilt design better shoes. For pros and kids to perform in.

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And because Spot-bilt is made better, it's sold better. Only at fine sporting goods stores. And while you're at your dealer, pick up your free copy of Spot-bilt's All-Star Baseball Tips. Or send 50¢ to Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., 432 Columbia Street, Cambridge, MA 02141.



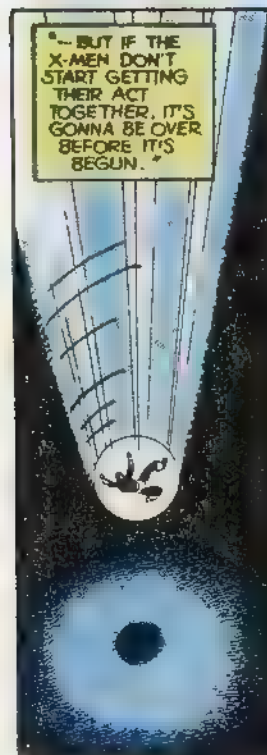




WE'RE OFF AND RUNNIN', FOLKS, AND SO FAR, I'M NOT IMPRESSED. WHEN I TUSSELED WITH SPIDER-MAN, * HE BROKE FREE OF HIS PINBALL.

THE GAME'S STILL YOUNG --

*MTU #66--ROG.

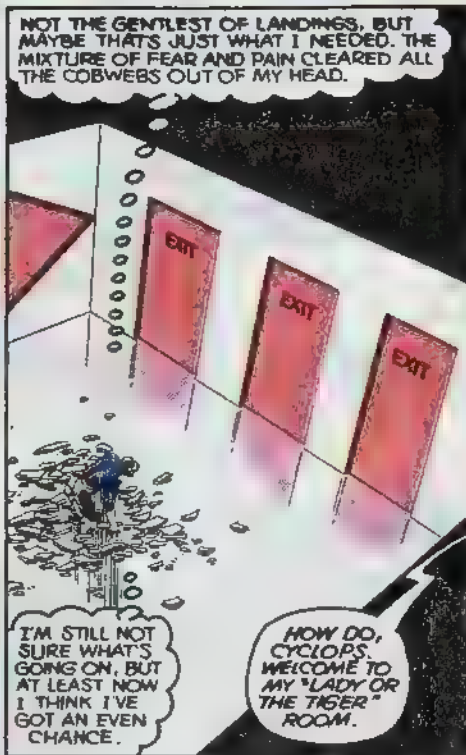


"-- BUT IF THE X-MEN DON'T START GETTING THEIR ACT TOGETHER, IT'S GONNA BE OVER BEFORE IT'S BEGUN."



OW!

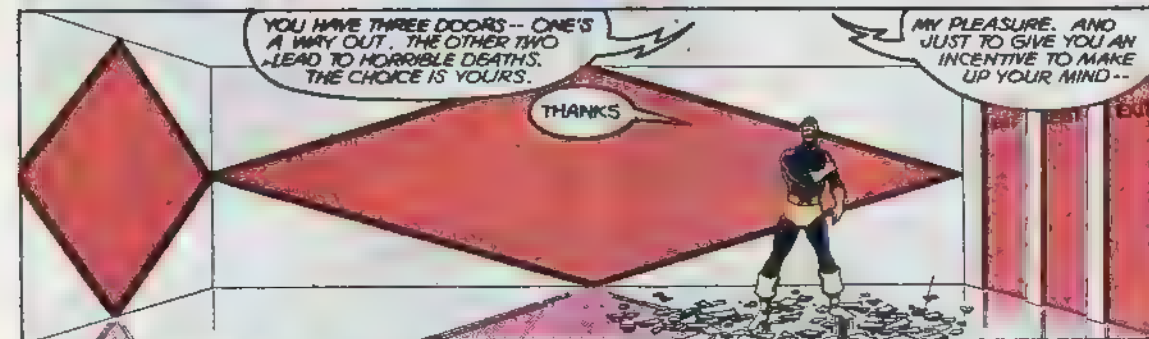
BATHUMP!



NOT THE GENTLEST OF LANDINGS, BUT MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT I NEEDED. THE MIXTURE OF FEAR AND PAIN CLEARED ALL THE COBWEBS OUT OF MY HEAD.

I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT AT LEAST NOW I THINK I'VE GOT AN EVEN CHANCE.

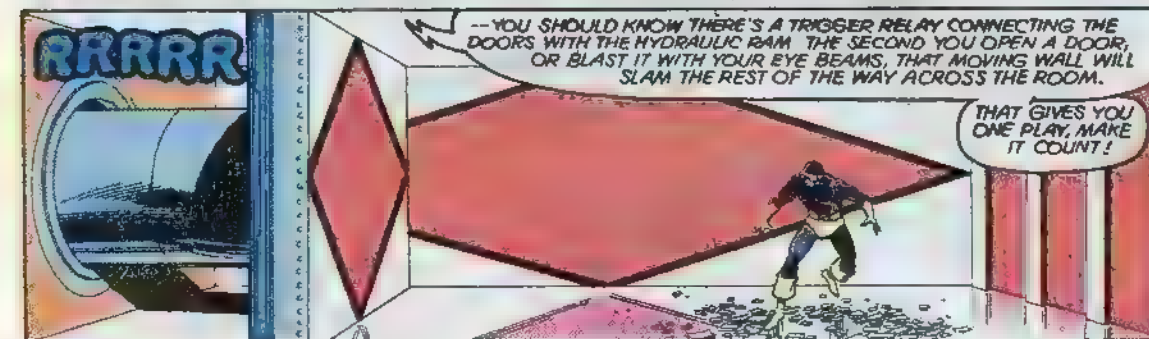
HOW DO, CYCLOPS. WELCOME TO MY "LADY OR THE TIGER" ROOM.



YOU HAVE THREE DOORS -- ONE'S A WAY OUT. THE OTHER TWO -- LEAD TO HORRIBLE DEATHS. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

THANKS

MY PLEASURE. AND JUST TO GIVE YOU AN INCENTIVE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND --



RRRRRR

-- YOU SHOULD KNOW THERE'S A TRIGGER RELAY CONNECTING THE DOORS WITH THE HYDRAULIC RAM. THE SECOND YOU OPEN A DOOR, OR BLAST IT WITH YOUR EYE BEAMS, THAT MOVING WALL WILL SLAM THE REST OF THE WAY ACROSS THE ROOM.

THAT GIVES YOU ONE PLAY, MAKE IT COUNT!



'COURSE, WHAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE IS THAT BEHIND EACH DOOR IS A CONCRETE WALL

SURE, THERE'S A WAY OUTTA THAT TRAP. BUT HE WON'T FIND IT BY TRUSTIN' ME.

NOW, FOR COLOSSUS...



ABSOLUTE DARKNESS-- I CANNOT SEE A THING. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM...

OR HOW LARGE THIS ROOM IS.



BUT I MUST DO SOMETHING MY FRIENDS ARE IN DANGER

< PIOTR NIKOLAEVITCH RASPUTIN-- BE SEATED >

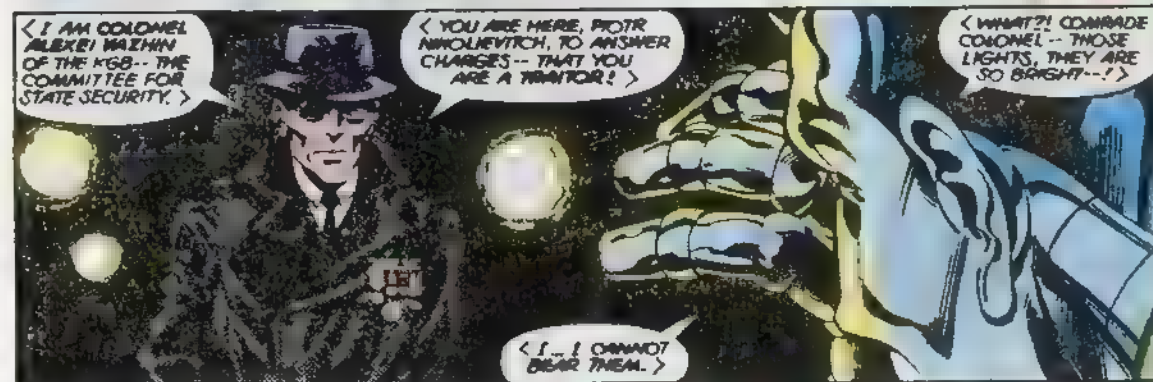
HA--?? THAT VOICE -- IT SPEAKS RUSSIAN!



< GREETINGS, YOUNG COMRADE. I TRUST YOU ARE COMFORTABLE-- WE WILL BE HERE QUITE A WHILE. >

< WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? >

< I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU-- COLOSSUS. >

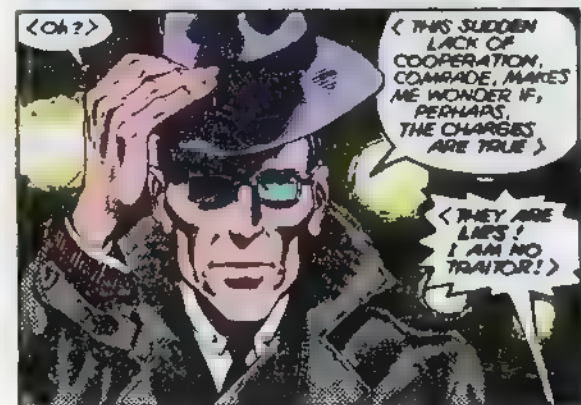


< I AM COLONEL ALEKSEI RAZHIN OF THE KGB-- THE COMMITTEE FOR STATE SECURITY. >

< YOU ARE HERE, PIOTR NIKOLAEVITCH, TO ANSWER CHARGES-- THAT YOU ARE A TRAITOR! >

< WHAT?!! COMRADE COLONEL-- THOSE LIGHTS, THEY ARE SO BRIGHT--! >

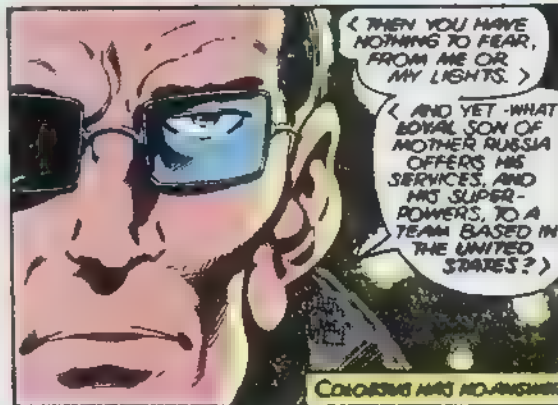
< I... I CANNOT BEAR THEM. >



< OH? >

< THIS SUDDEN LACK OF COOPERATION, COMRADE, MAKES ME WONDER IF, PERHAPS, THE CHARGES ARE TRUE >

< THEY ARE LIES! I AM NO TRAITOR! >



< THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, FROM ME OR MY LIGHTS. >

< AND YET-- WHAT BOWAL SON OF MOTHER RUSSIA OFFERS HIS SERVICES, AND HIS SUPER-POWERS, TO A TEAM BASED IN THE UNITED STATES? >

COLLOSSUS HAS AN ANSWER

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SKULL!



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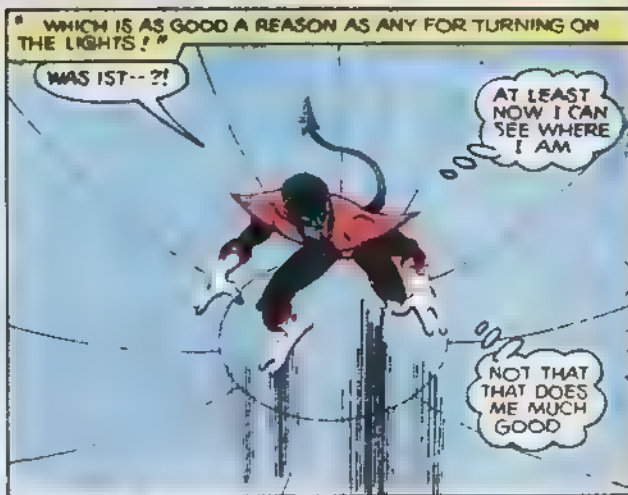
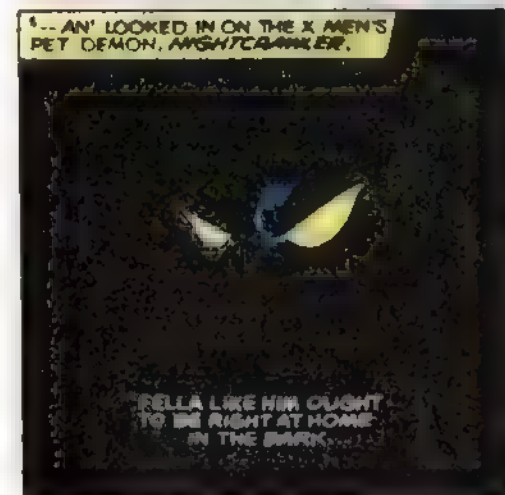
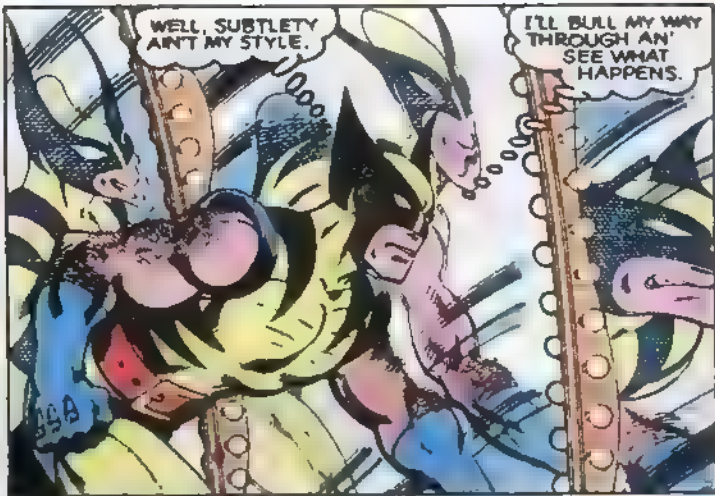
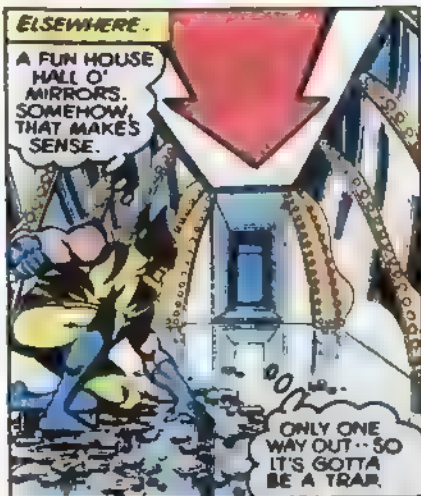
☐ Star Wars

☐ Dr. Strange

☐ Godzilla

☐ Peter Parker

☐ Thor



THE EPIC ENCOUNTER OF 1979!
IT'S **INSIDERS** VS **OUTSIDER** WHEN
THE MARVELOUS **MICRONAUTS** MEET THE MACABRE **MAN-THING**

COVER
TO COVER
ACTION
IN THE
MIGHTY
MARVEL
MANNER!

SPECTACULAR
THRILLS
IN THE
FLORIDA
SWAMP!

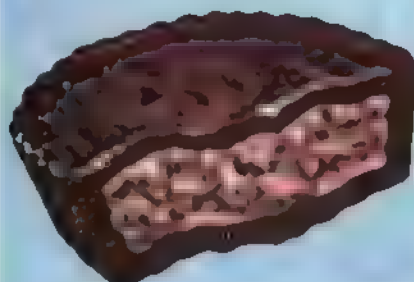
ELECTRIFYING
EXCITEMENT
ON
EARTH
AND IN THE
**MICRO-
VERSE!**



BE HERE WHEN **SCIENCE-FANTASY MEETS**
FEAR HEAD ON IN **MICRONAUTS #7!**
ON SALE
APRIL 10!

AND WATCH FOR THE RETURN OF **MAN-THING**
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Milk chocolate with a creamy peanut butter center and bits of roasted peanuts for that extra flavor. It's the original crunch style.

MILLO CUP

Pure milk chocolate with a whipped creamy center. There's nothing else quite like the taste of a Millo Cup.



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Honest to goodness peanut butter flavor—inside and out. It's a peanut butter center topped off with a special non-chocolate crunch-style coating.

Whether you're a chocolate lover or a peanut butter nut, we've got your cup of candy. Millo Cup, Smoothie and Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup. The choice is yours, what a delicious decision!

Sensational

LITE WRITER

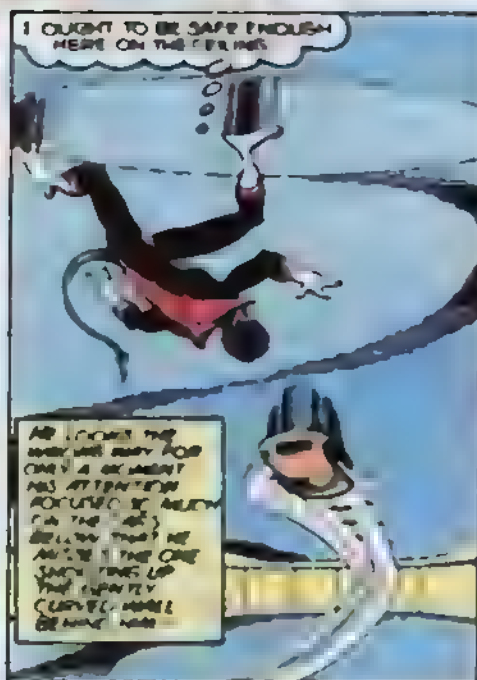
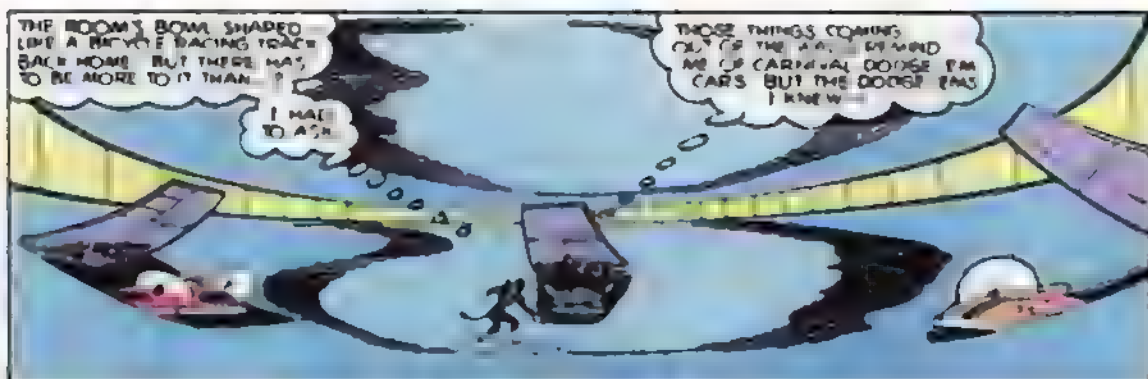
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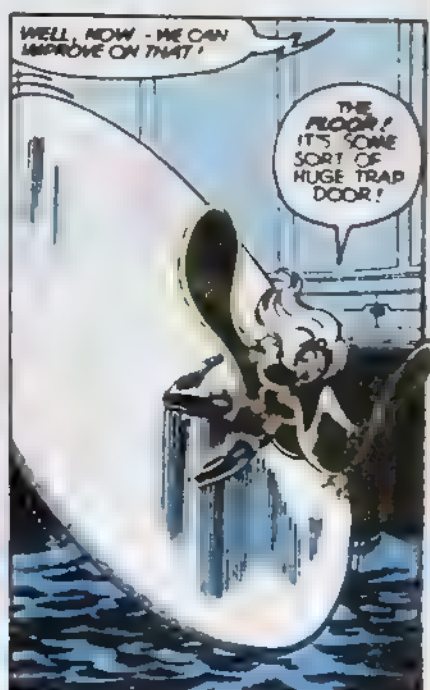
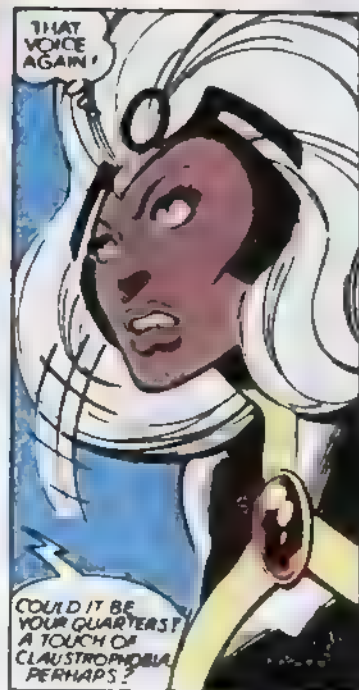
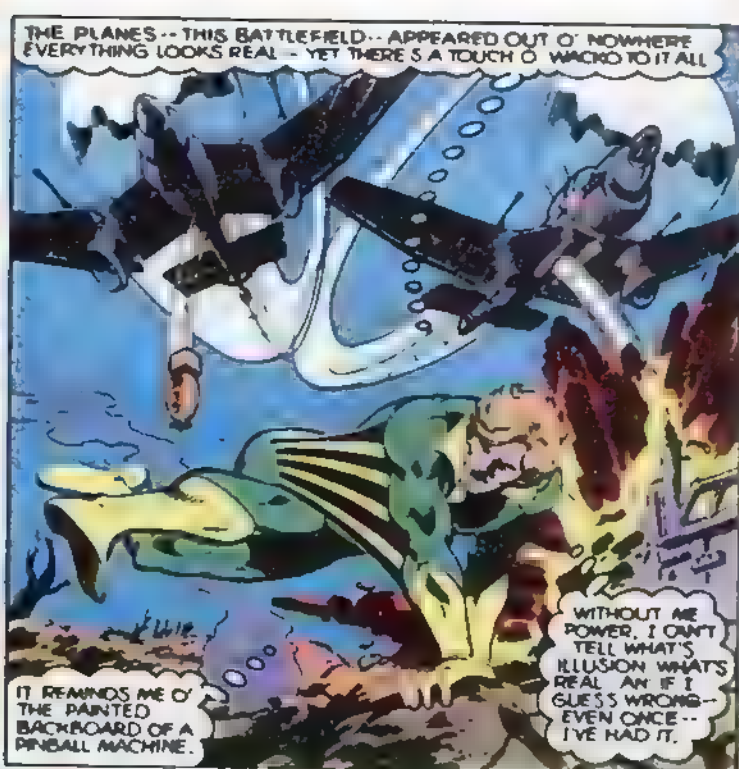
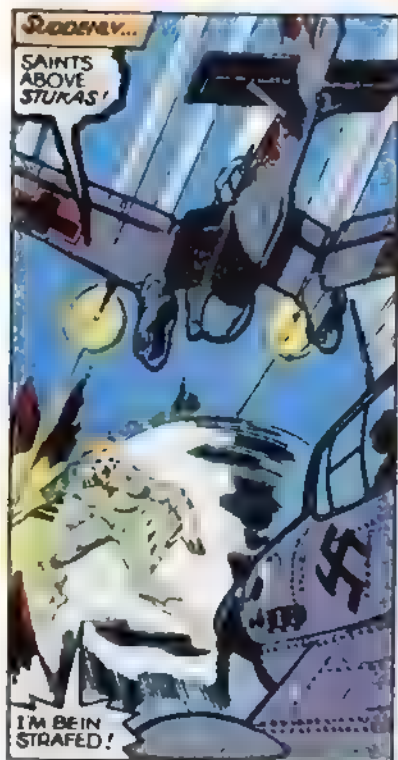
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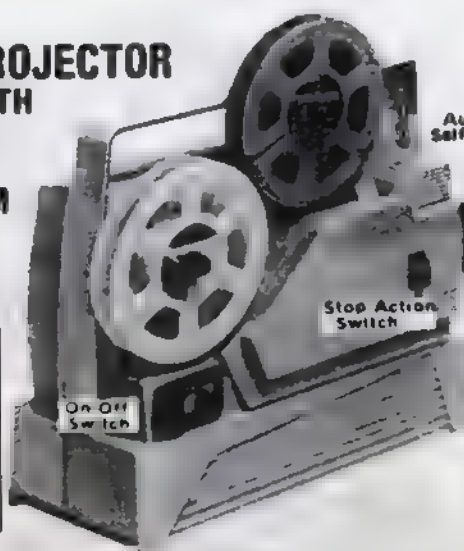
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that you'll want to reach out and touch them. You get one pair 尹與鳳見- additional pairs are \$2.99 each

- Lumineous, hooded screen at no extra charge. • Miracle film self-loader.
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A black and white comic book illustration of Superman standing with hands on hips. He is wearing his classic suit with the 'S' shield. In the background, there is a large, stylized 'ROCK' and a speech bubble that says 'GLOW IN THE DARK!'

**GLOW
IN THE
DARK!**

**IT'S TERRIFIC
IT'S FANTASTIC
IT'S KRYPTONASTIC**

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Well, now you can be, by owning a Kryptonite™ Rock!

Kryptonite™ Rocks come from the planet Krypton. Some time ago this planet exploded, sending huge pieces of rocks into space.

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Now have the Kryptonite™ Rock broken down into a million pieces and are making it available to all of Superman's friends for safe-keeping.

Kayakase™ Rocks are blue-green in color, and are safe, non-toxic and most exciting of all! **GLOW IN THE DARK!**

So keep Rose Corporation from being destroyed and at the same time turn an amazing Kryptoskey. In Rock that shines in the dark.

Comanche 1/2 Buckle up! Yours for only \$2.50 plus shipping charge.

The above story is only fictional and is in no way to be confused with actual fact.

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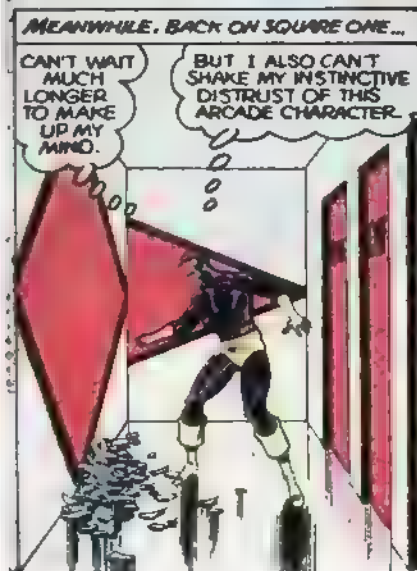
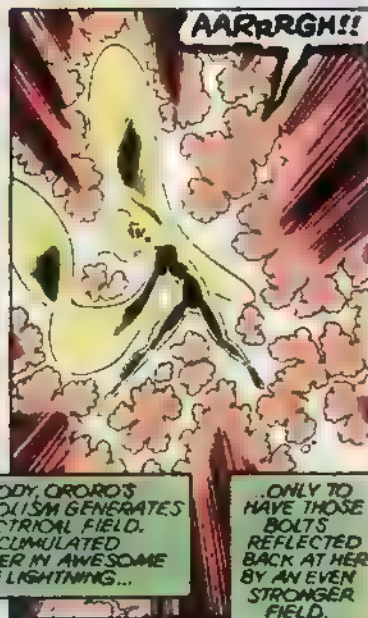
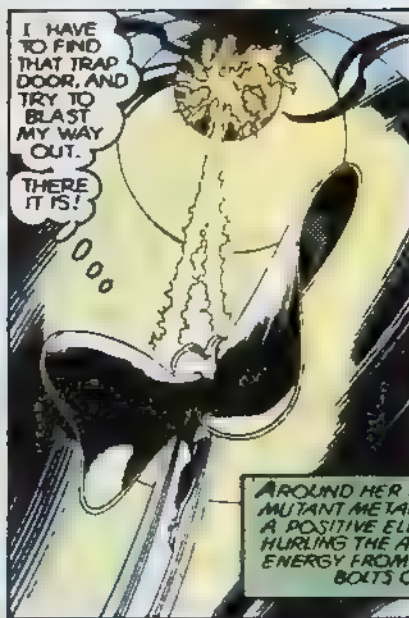
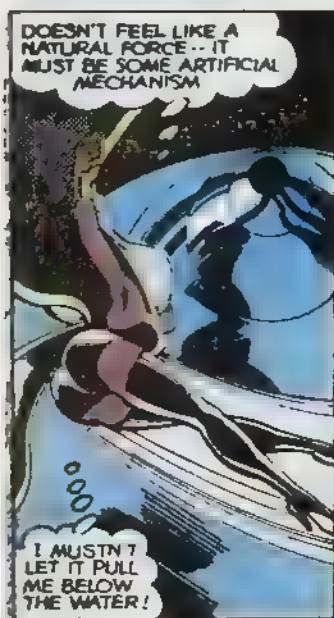
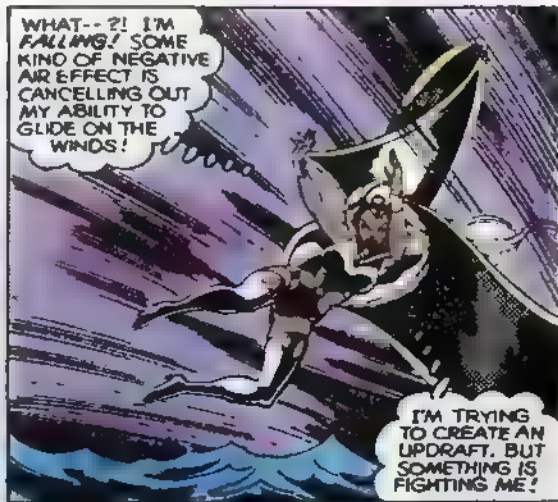
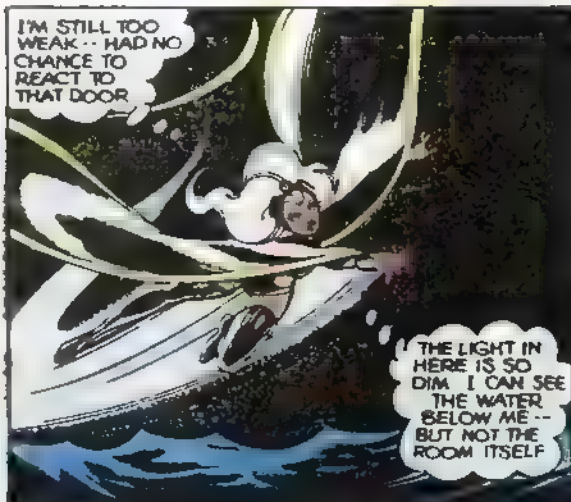
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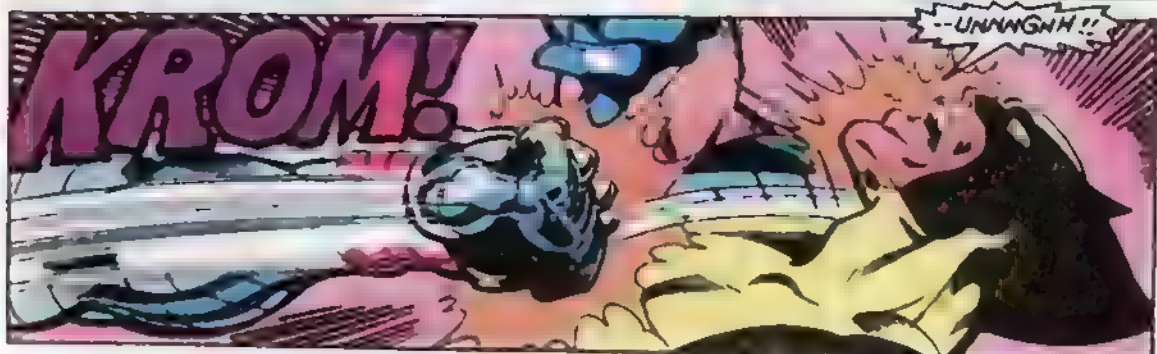
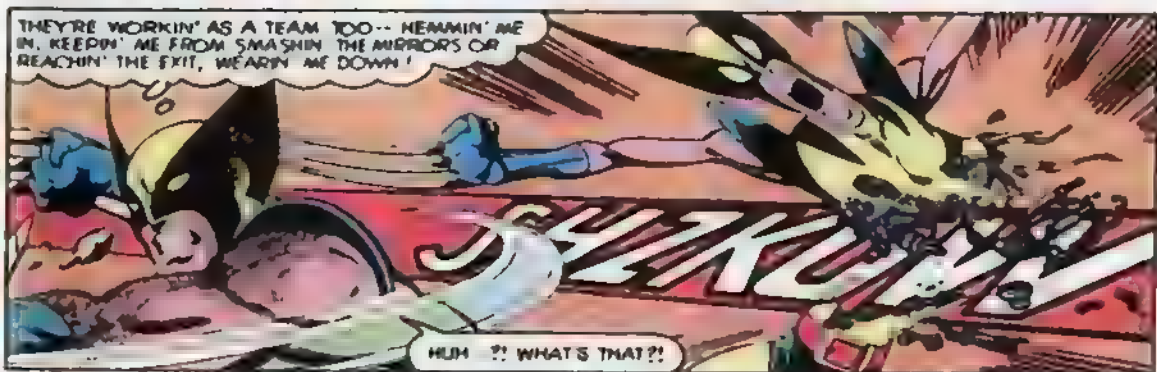
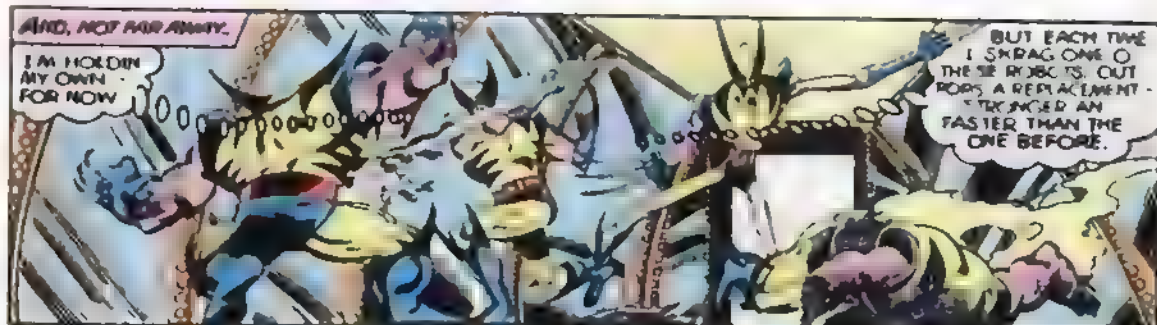
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, gang, remember me telling you about our top-secret Project X last uh? Well, wouldja believe that it's such a hush-hush mystery that there are even some people in the Bullpen who don't know all about it? Since I previously mentioned that it's a new and different type of mag, the question has arisen, "Is it a comicbook, or have we abandoned the style that's made Marvel a household word?" (Well, in my household, anyway!) You can set your fears at rest, however: Project X will definitely be a comicbook type of publication, but totally different from any we've ever done before! I'm hoping we can get our act together in the next couple of weeks so that I can lay it all on you next issue.

In the meantime, it's ceremony time! I hereby award a majestic Marvel medalion with oakleaf cluster to the students and faculty of Philadelphia's iconic Temple University. While I was making a typical tempestuous speech on campus recently,

Mellow Mike McGrath, a journalist buddy of mine who's one of Temple's more garrulous grads, informed me that this was the fourth time I had inflicted myself upon that awesome altar of academics! Four speeches at the same school! I don't know whether to congratulate them for their superb choice of lecturers, or for being unsurpassed gluttons for punishment! I'd probably was even more sentimental except that I've gotta rush now—it's time to notify the Guinness Book of Records!

Incidentally, there's another big, wild surprise coming your way this month—and it's really different—really a knock out! It's **MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #1**, the hottest thing since Johnny Storm's temper tantrum! Imagine, a brain-buster on every big, exciting page—every one based on our own spectacular super heroes—with no ads; packed cover to cover with puzzles, mazes, games, and every far-out pencil project you can think of—as well as plenty that you

never knew existed! It's another original Marvel first—never been anything like it! **MARVEL FUN AND GAMES!** Our latest and greatest monthly comicbook sensation! The first collector's-item issue is on sale now! So what're you waiting for? Go, team, go!

Now, 'tis time for me to resume our continuing argument about what to call Project X. I told our blushing bullpen buddies the title wouldn't be all that important so long as we fill up most of the cover with those drama-fraught words, "Stan Lee Presents"—but I suspect they didn't quite see it that way! Hence, it's back to battle for the nonce. (And if I win a nonce, I hope it won't be too heavy to carry!) I'll bring you a blow-by-blow in my next column so you can learn how it all turns out. Till then, remember—never tackle a bad-tempered turtle; it could land you in the soup!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! *The Comics Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept.* It's here! The 100th issue of **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**! It's 34 pages of thrills by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Chan! It marks a dramatic turning point in the life of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian! It's sure to be a classic collector's item—and, by Crom, it's only 60¢! If you can only buy one comicbook this month, this is the one. Get it now!

ITEM! *The Real Life Human Interest Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept.* This month, amiable Editor Al Milgrom weds beautiful Judy Lawn, who hails from Al's home town of Detroit. Congratulations and best of luck from the Bullpen, folks!

ITEM! There are lots of things happening this month in Marvel Comics, and we humbly advise you to gloat onto every angle one of our four-color wonders. If you want just a hint of what's in store (as if a word to the wise weren't sufficient) well, check this: in **STAR WARS #26** an epic begins with a gripping tale entitled *Siege at Yavin*, by Archie Goodwin, Carmine Infantino and Gene Day. **DEFENDERS #73** features the wildest, weirdest new character we've ever seen! His name is *Xhoox*, and the only way to find out how to pronounce that is to ask scripter Ed Hennigan or buy a copy of the magazine. The secret that goes with that crazy monicker will floor you! Meanwhile, Spider-Man is up to his webbed neck in trouble with a feline female called the *Black Cat*, in **THE AMAZING**

SPIDER-MAN #194 Believe us, writer-editor Mary Wolfman made sure she's far more than you'd expect. Last, but not least by any means, we in the Bullpen would like to acknowledge what is possibly the outstanding achievement in comics art this month, namely **DAREDEVIL #159**! The story, by Roger McKenzie, is inspired, the art, by brand-new sensation Frank Miller and long-time star inker Klaus Janson, is superb. Don't pass it up! All of the above are on sale right about now, friends!



ITEM! Soon, very soon, a title will be returning to the Marvel lineup after a hiatus of nearly eight months. It's among the most requested comebacks of all time, in no small part by the Marvel editorial staff! We'll give you a hint—the title in question stars a character whose purpose is to discover his own humanity—or the lack of it! Watch this space!

ITEM! Speaking of Fun Books, the first **MIGHTY MARVEL JUMBO FUN BOOK** from Simon & Schuster, re-presents Fun Books #1 through #3 in 352 sneaky 8 1/2 x 11 pages. It's \$6.95, complete with a preface by Stan the Man, and it's at better bookstores already.



ITEM! We're happy to report that pugnacious production person, Paty, is recovering nicely from the minor wounds accidentally inflicted by her pet hybrid Burmese python, Dum Dum Dugan, during a somewhat too-spirited play-session. And, on that happy note, we bid thee good health, and watch you sneaky snakes till next we meet!

THE ALL NEW FANTASTIC FOUR IS HERE!

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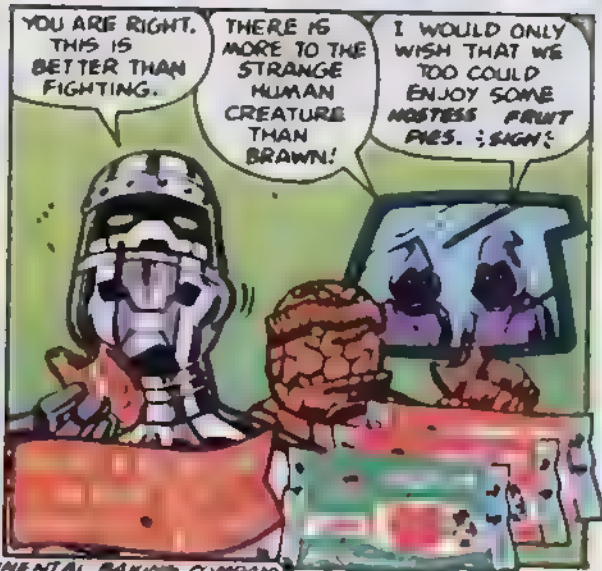
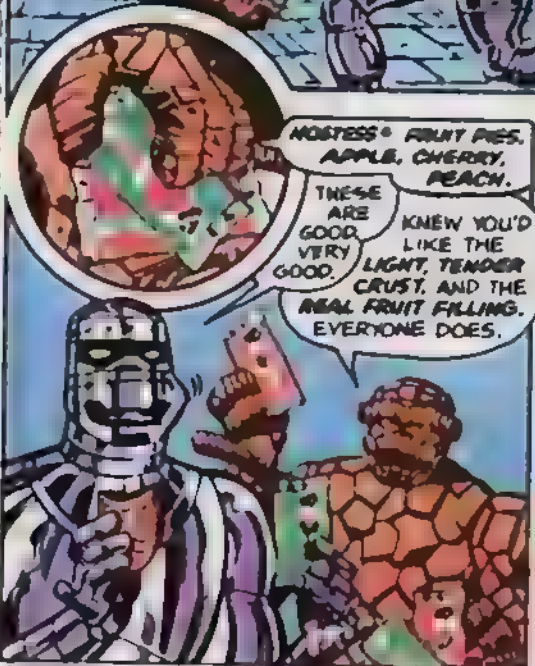
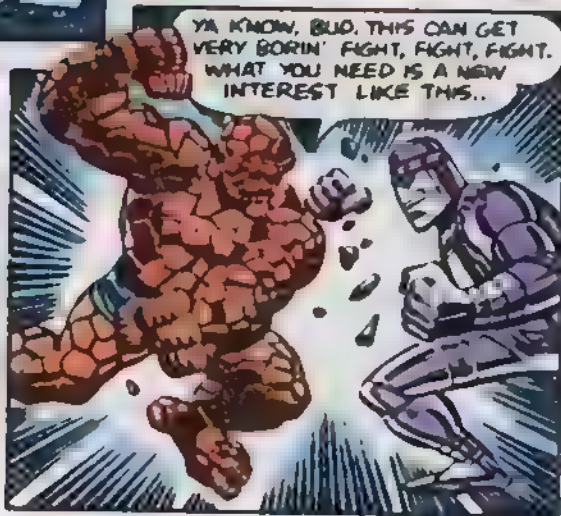
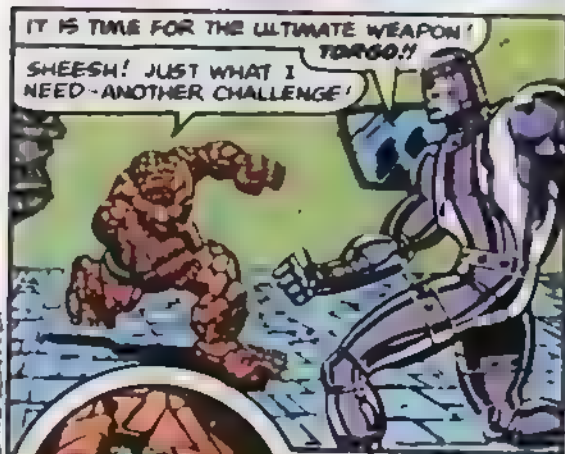


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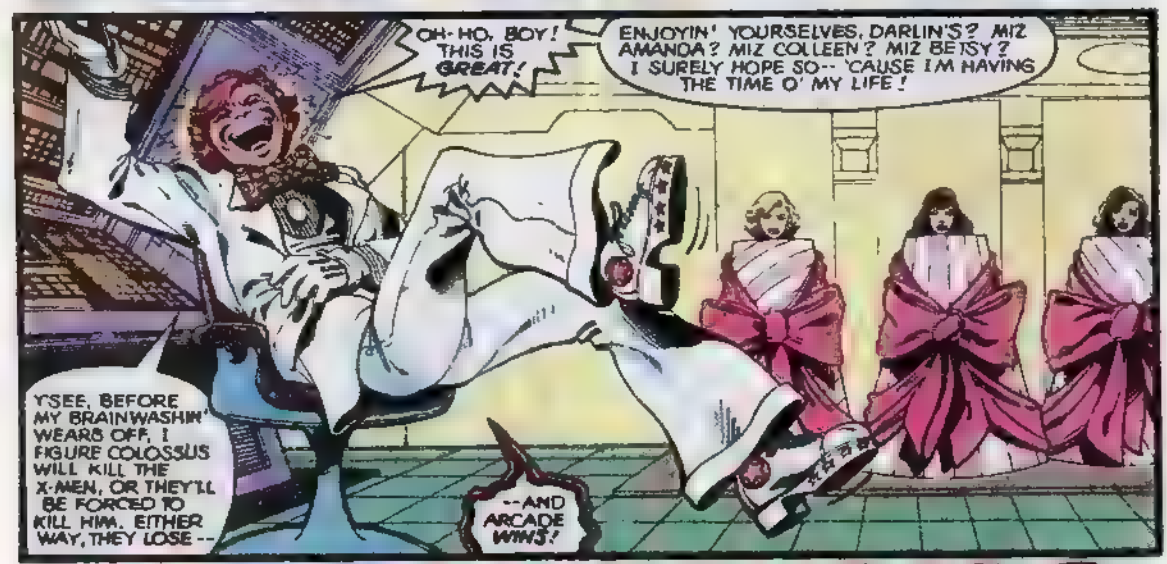
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CYKE, THIS IS...
CRAZY! THAT
AIN'T ONE OF
ARCADE'S
ROBOTS--
THAT'S REALLY
COLOSSUS!

NO LONGER AM I THE
X-MAN, COLOSSUS-- A
TRAITOR TO HIS
MOTHERLAND AND
HIS PEOPLE!

NOW I AM THE
PROLETARIAN--
WORKERS' HERO OF
THE SOVIET UNION!

AND
MY FIRST
MISSION
IS - TO
SMASH
THE
X-MEN!



OH-HO, BOY!
THIS IS
GREAT!

ENJOYIN' YOURSELVES, DARLIN'S? MIZ
AMANDA? MIZ COLLEEN? MIZ BETSY?
I SURELY HOPE SO-- 'CAUSE I'M HAVING
THE TIME O' MY LIFE!

YSEE, BEFORE
MY BRAIN WASHIN'
WEARS OFF, I
FIGURE COLOSSUS
WILL KILL THE
X-MEN, OR THEY'LL
BE FORCED TO
KILL HIM. EITHER
WAY, THEY LOSE--

--AND
ARCADE
WINS!

NEXT **HE ONLY LAUGHS
WHEN I HURT!**

X-MAIL

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575 Madison Avenue
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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Way back in X-MEN #117, we printed a letter from Brenda Robnett, wherein she spoke of her feelings about Phoenix/Jean Grey. She'd liked what Chris and Dave Cockrum—and later, John Byrne—had done with her initially, especially their giving her power levels sufficient to slug it out toe-to-toe with Firelord and, later, save the entire universe. She did not like the power de-escalation that occurred immediately afterwards. We invited comment; we got it, and then some.

Dear Chris & Co,

Re: Phoenix' powers.

First off, I love Phoenix. Such splendid power. And I am truly thrilled by her non-competitive friendship with Ororo. At first, though, I rather thought you would have to sharply define Jean's new powers as time passes or you would wind up with a super-heroine who has no need of her fellow X-Men. From the weakest member of the team, she became the strongest and what need has she of them? Well, of course, if you did that I'd be screaming M-A-D, because I love Scott & Jean together and I want them to continue on together. I think you are doing fine on your own. You've injected a lot of humanity into these characters, and that's what makes me love them. I think you're on the right track with Jean (providing she doesn't lose Scott—I'd keep reading—humanity, you know—but I'd never forgive you.) It makes it much more interesting when one moment Jean is repairing a universe and the next she can't defeat a two-bit agent like Warhawk. It makes her troubled emotions so much more poignant because neither we nor she know the true extent of her powers. How frightening to think one moment you can save the world and then nothing works. Jean will be doing a lot of soul-searching for her new identity and how much worse for her when she realizes Scott thinks she's not Jean Grey anymore, too. And we readers will be right there involved with them.

Joan Ludlow
(no address given)

Dear Chris & Armadillo,

I agree whole-heartedly with Brenda Robnett about Phoenix. Hurray, hurray, back from the dead, she must be pretty special. Keep her that way. If you're afraid to have a super super-heroine, don't fret—she's not. First, I think you have to define power. Can she blast the X-Men across the Universe? Yes, she can. Can she read minds and mentally bonk people? Right again. Can she leap tall buildings at a single bound? Not really. Can she smash a runaway Mack truck? Lift the Empire State Building? Punch a hole in three feet of steel? Not unless you've been modifying the old model. She's just not physically that strong. Certainly you guys can work out ways to exploit that lack in her power. Jean is not omnipotent. And psychologically, she also appears very vulnerable. But please bring back that *fantastic* psychic strength. I'm sure Marveldom Assembled will cheer you on.

Susan Jaworowski
Providence, RI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My main reason in writing is to respond to Brenda Robnett's letter and the issues that it raised.

First, I think that it is a mistake to approach Phoenix as a super-powered woman, and I hope I can muster the literacy to make myself understood. The magnificent thing about Mr. Claremont's female characterizations is that he approaches each one simply as an individual in herself. Obviously, 'woman' is part of what Jean is, but it is a mistake to ascribe any char-

acteristics to her or any other female character simply because she is a woman. In this light, I think Ms. Robnett's comment about women and the "Weaker Sex" are a mistake. It is no more real to make a female character particularly strong in reaction to the mistaken belief of the weaker sex than it is to hold the belief in the first place.

Assuming that I made that point clear, it seems to me that leaves only the question of Phoenix' power level, all considerations of sex aside. To some extent, I agree with Ms. Robnett; a heroine of extreme power can be made interesting, in some ways more interesting than a conventional Joe Jack in long underwear. The problem in this case, I think, is one of context, in two different senses. First, if you have a heroine of universe-saving powers, then the book is going to have a rather cosmic scope. A heroine with the power to mend the fabric of reality battling it out with Sandman might not be a biggie. Also, the character herself will have to develop a rather cosmic consciousness (e.g. Captain Marvel or Thor), and that isn't the Jean I know. The Jean I know is a real, warm person, rooted in this earthly world.

Second, this is a group book, and having a character around who can always pull the X-Men's fat out of the fire won't do anybody any good. And I don't feel like Phoenix can support a solo feature at this point.

Leaving, finally, the age-old question of, are the villains too powerful? I think it's really pretty much a question of mix and match. The full roster of Avengers taking on the Mole Man might be a bit of overkill, but, on the other hand, I don't think I'd like to see Daredevil face off against Galactus. Overall, I'd be willing to concede that villainy is a mite bit stronger in Marvelland, but again, I see two considerations. One, it's a helpful device for building suspense. Two, the use and application of power takes a great deal of effort and practice. Since the villains are essentially the aggressors, it's only natural that they are more geared towards the use of power. For them, the optimum condition is the use of power. For the good folks, the optimum condition is to be able to go home and relax.

I don't know exactly where that puts me on the issue, but I have registered my opinions. Your work is, as always, just magnificent.

Verde
Box 1280 ac
Meadville, PA 16335

Where to begin? To cover this question in the depth it deserves would probably take more room than we have. The best we can do is print your debate.

You see, Phoenix' power was reduced because it was felt that having a cosmic X-Man would unbalance this team in exactly the same sense that Thor all-too-often unbalanced the Avengers. When you have a Norse God—or the ultimate telepath—on your side, everyone else in the Avengers—or the X-Men—is rendered pretty much superfluous. On the other hand, the question has been asked, would we have chopped Phoenix' powers if she was a man? Given the existing parameters and characters in the X-MEN, the answer is yes!

What's done *à propos* Phoenix, is done. What is important from now on is making sure that all that happens to her—and to those around her—is true to the character thus far evolved. Then, hopefully, regardless of whether Jean becomes a goddess or a normal person—sans any mutant powers—she'll be a character the readers know and understand and, most of all, care for. What's essential—at least from Chris' point-of-view as the writer—is that she—and all the X-Men—be real. It's easier said than done, but that's our challenge, and we're going to keep trying to meet it!

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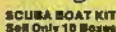
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